

of the social economy in Scotland were concerned in the affair, and the result is not only a matter of congratulation to the great cause of charity, but to those directly concerned with the institution itself, which has as its pioneer and chief worker Dr. R. W. Philip. The Chairman of the Executive and Management Committee was the Lady Dunedin of Shenton, whose husband, the Lord Justice-General for Scotland, formerly Secretary for Scotland, opened the fair on the first day. Under her brilliant guidance was a band of hard and consistent workers, amongst whom may be mentioned Mrs. George Crabbie, Mr. J. E. Crabbie, Mr. Norman Cairns, Mr. W. Gardner Sinclair, Mr. Stewart Kennedy, and Mr. Stodart Walker. To Mr. Walker is due a magnificent volume, *A Beggar's Wallet*, which was reviewed in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 25th, and the edition of an amusing evening paper, *The Bacillus*. An elaborate series of amusements—theatres, concerts, shooting galleries, and the like—served as a contrast to the serious work of the stalls. Of the stall-holders special mention must be made of Lady Dunedin, Anna Countess of Moray, Lady Grant, Lady Christison, Lady Grainger Stewart, Mrs. Crabbie, Mrs. Philip, Mrs. Redford, the Hon. Mrs. Trotter, Lady Cranston, and Miss Crabbie, whilst amongst the assistants were the Countess de la Warr, Lady Belhaven and Stenton, Lady Playfair, Lady Margaret Sackville, the Countess of Northesk, Lady Clementine Waring, the Hon. May Hamilton, the Hon. Muriel Hamilton, the Hon. Mary Graham Murray, Mrs. Pelham Bruce, and Lady Anne Kerr. The picturesqueness of the market, converted for the time into a fair of all the nations, and loaded with goods from all parts of the world, attracted great crowds during the week, and with the assistance of the bands of the Royal Scots Greys and the Highland Light Infantry the public were enticed to visit and revisit the most successful attempt of its kind of modern times. Messrs. Dobson, Molle, and Co.'s printing press, turning out thousands of the evening paper, with its brilliant cartoon and its clever sketches, was one of the attractions of the fair, which aroused so much public interest that even the city tramcars were decorated as for a coronation day. The Lady Helen Munro Ferguson and the Lady Marjorie Mackenzie were amongst those who declared the fair open. There can be no doubt whatever that the response of the Scottish public was an evidence of their deep interest in the great charity, and that the results will do much to encourage the directors and staff of the hospital—chief of whom is Dr. Philip; to him is dedicated the *Beggar's Wallet*, "out of respect for his distinguished attainments as a physician, his exceptional wisdom as a citizen, and his unflinching loyalty as a friend."

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL DIPLOMATES OF SCOTLAND.

On November 27th a deputation from the Association of Medical Diplomates of Scotland was formally received by the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The deputation consisted of the President of the Association (Mr. St. Aubyn-Farrer), the Honorary Treasurer (Mr. W. Bell), and the Honorary Secretary (Dr. David Walsh). The gentleman last mentioned introduced the deputation and explained the object of the petition which they were then to present on behalf of the diplomates of the Edinburgh College. The petitioners prayed for the substitution or addition of a membership diploma for the existing qualification of Licentiate and Fellow. The desirability of such a change was urged by licentiates, who found themselves handicapped by competing in practice with those holding the membership of the English Royal College. An apparent inferiority was attached to the licentiate, a disadvantage which it was hoped the College would, if feasible, take steps to remedy. The petition was then read by the President of the Association, who pointed out that it was signed by between 700 and 800 diplomates of the College. The petition, handsomely illuminated on vellum and bound in red morocco, was then formally handed by him to the President of the College, Mr. C. W. MacGillivray. Some discussion then took place upon various points raised by the petition. On behalf of the College the President undertook the careful consideration of the important issue involved. Before withdrawing, Mr. St. Aubyn-Farrer thanked the President and Council for their most courteous reception.

We are requested to add that it is hoped that Licentiates and Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh who have not yet sent in their signatures to the petition will do so at once to Dr. Walsh, 18A, Hanover Street, W., for a supernumerary list.

THE LATE MRS. ELDER.

By the death of Mrs. John Elder the University of Glasgow has lost a generous benefactor, who at various times subscribed liberally to the University funds. She founded the women's department at Queen Margaret College, and for a long time took great interest in its welfare. Unfortunately some years ago Mrs. Elder considered that the University officials had broken faith with her by instituting mixed classes at Eilmorehill. Among other gifts to Govan, Mrs. Elder erected the Elder Cottage Hospital in connexion with the Cottage Nurses' Training Home. By her will she directs her trustees to pay any balance of the cost of the hospital building and of the equipment, and in addition she has set aside a sum of £50,000, of which the revenue is to be used in payment of the expenses of the hospital. To the Training Home she bequeaths the villa and ground presently occupied by that institution.

THE PAISLEY INFIRMARY.

During the latter half of the past week a very successful bazaar has been held in Paisley in aid of the funds of the Royal Alexandra Infirmary. The promoters aimed at securing £15,000 to remove a debt of £11,000, and place the institution upon a sound financial footing. The infirmary was erected a few years ago at a cost of £98,000, and by subsequent donations and subscriptions a further building fund of £90,000 was obtained. The debt of £11,000 arose from the yearly contributions falling short of the annual cost of maintenance. The institution provides accommodation for 167 patients, and there are in addition an isolation block, nurses' home, etc., while a dispensary was erected by private subscription as a Jubilee Memorial of the late Queen Victoria. The appeal for funds was warmly responded to by all classes, and valuable gifts and contributions were given. The bazaar was opened by Her Highness the Duchess of Albany on Wednesday, and at the termination on Saturday evening the Committee were able to announce that the total receipts amounted to £17,432, so that the sum aimed at was more than realized.

Ireland.

THE ELECTION OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVE FOR IRELAND.

WE have received the following letter from Dr. Laffan of Cashel:

"Your reference to the above in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 25th induces me to trouble you with some remarks on so important a matter. Personally I have no ambition to be the elected representative of a body of men who for so long a period have lain down under the metropolitan whip. Our profession is split up into two bodies in Ireland as with you—the rulers and the ruled. The doctor-making folk and the doctor-paying folk—the lordly minority and the suffering majority. Now let us see what the suffering masses ought to insist on.

"1. They ought to insist on examinations which should be open to the presence of every registered medical practitioner. Full liberty should be allowed to introduce shorthand reporters at the orals and to take copies of all written answers. Such an arrangement would get rid of fraudulent examinations and give us all more elbow room by lessening the in-puff into the profession.

"2. Hospital abuses should be sternly put down by making it infamous for any medical man to serve a hospital which by the admission of rich patients should rob the poor, the profession, and the charitable. A motion to this effect should be introduced at every meeting of the Medical Council by our direct representative.

"3. The professional masses who could formerly bestow estates on their sons by the cheaper medical education they could give them, should have that property restored to them by being readmitted to a share in the training of the neophytes of their profession, and the grounds for the repeated condemnation of the Medical Council visitors on the defective practical training of the profession be removed. In this way the views of the late Sir J. Paget, Mr. Wheelhouse, and other independent members of our calling would be given effect to.

"Lastly, a Council which is supported by us should be so reformed as to be elected by us, and not by those who prey on our very vitals.

"The foregoing seem to me the main planks for which the masses should strive. I will support any man who may be

selected by a public meeting, without any reference either to his polemics or politics, who will support the above, and I appeal to the Cork doctors outside the Queen's College folk to summon a meeting of the provincial men into their city."

DEPORTATION OF IRISH PAUPER LUNATICS.

The Committee of the Cork District Asylum have for some time past been objecting to the "dumping" of lunatics from America into the Cork Asylum no matter what part of the world they may belong to. Now the Clonmel Lunatic Asylum Committee seem to be suffering in a similar way, for Dr. Harvey reports that the deportation of Irish pauper lunatics from the United States to this country has been going on for some time. In one case a girl emigrated at the age of 14 years, and when 5 years older was placed in a New York lunatic asylum, and after ten years there was sent back. Another patient was brought back in charge of two nurses, and on inquiry he was told that these nurses brought over five patients. Dr. Harvey stated he had made representations to Dublin Castle on the subject. Dr. Heffernan stated there were 1,093 Irish-born patients admitted to asylums in New York for the eleven years 1888-99. The number of lunatics in Ireland is over 180,000. If all the Irish patients were sent across from America there would be no room for anybody else. Steps were taken to have the matter brought under the notice of Parliament.

THE REPORT OF THE IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

We have received the following letter with reference to the article in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 25th, p. 1422, on the report of the Irish Local Government Board:

Local Government Board,
Dublin,
28th November, 1905.

Dear Sir,

The Medical Commissioner has asked me to present his compliments, and to say that he has read with much interest your article on Ireland in the last number of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. At the same he thinks it well that, as Chief of the Statistical Department of the Local Government Board, I should point out a few inaccuracies in the figures given on page 1423, which, possibly, you may wish to correct in a future issue of the JOURNAL.

As regards the salaries of medical officers, it is stated that they amounted to £93,000 in 1897, and had shrunk to £90,000 in 1905; but when payments for temporary medical services are taken into account, as is the case with respect to the amount given for 1897, it is found that the salaries in 1905, instead of having shrunk to £90,000, had increased to £103,880.

With reference to the statement that there has been an increase of 1,000 in the number of midwives in the last five years, I have to observe that in 1900 the total number of midwives authorized was 473, and in 1905, 605.

The numbers on outdoor relief are stated to have increased by leaps and bounds since 1893, and it is added, in proof, that in 1895 57,500 persons were in receipt of outdoor relief, while in 1905 there were 96,500 on the lists—a formidable increase, it is observed, of 41,000 paupers in ten years. From the tables contained in the Board's reports, it will be seen, however, that in the year 1894-5 the daily average number on outdoor relief was 57,435, and the highest number on any day 63,703, while for the year 1904-5 the figures are—daily average, 57,665; highest number, 68,773, this latter including 8,715 persons who were afforded exceptional relief by means of special works provided to meet the distress occasioned by the failure of the potato crop in 1904.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

H. COURTENAY.

The Editor,
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

TYPHOID FEVER IN TYRONE.

On November 25th the Omagh Guardians were occupied for some time in dealing with the epidemic of typhoid fever which has been prevalent in the district now for some weeks. The fever hospital was fully occupied with twenty-six patients, and extra nurses had to be employed. Several patients have refused to enter the hospital. Dr. Bradley, medical officer of the Gortin district, wrote that the epidemic was spreading, that cases were being hidden, and that the creamery authorities had refused to close the creamery, although this step

had been recommended both by himself and the Local Government Board inspector. Dr. Fleming's recommendation for the hospital were approved.

IRISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The general special meeting of the Irish Medical Association to consider the new reorganization scheme was held in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, on November 23rd. The scheme submitted was that approved by a preceding meeting, and was based upon the principle of county representation, with certain exceptions in the case of three large cities. The Council will now be composed of a president, honorary secretary, honorary treasurer, 32 members representing as many counties, with 3 members for Dublin, 2 for Belfast, and 2 for Cork. The total number, therefore, will be 42.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATE.

Dr. James D. Williamson, of Belfast and of Helens Bay, county Down, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the county Down.

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

An interesting and important lecture on Scientific Researches on the use of Alcohol was delivered by Dr. Norman Barnett, honorary secretary of the North of Ireland Branch of the British Medical Temperance Association, to a meeting of the National Commercial Temperance League on the evening of November 18th. The effect of alcohol on animal and vegetable life was illustrated by lantern slides. The lecturer concluded by giving ten scientific reasons in favour of total abstinence, and remarked that alcohol was unnecessary, if not actually prejudicial, in health, and should only be used in disease with the greatest caution.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BELFAST.

Sir Donald Currie's offer of £20,000 to the Better Equipment Fund of Queen's College, Belfast, is conditional upon an equal sum being raised by the College before Christmas. A third list has lately been published bringing the sum total up to over £16,000, so that some £4,000 must be raised before the date mentioned. President Hamilton appeals once more to all not to let the disgrace of an insufficient reply to the generous offer rest upon Belfast and Ulster. As one friend expressed the situation, "the honour of Ulster, as well as the well-being of the College, is concerned." It is earnestly hoped that all old graduates will remit their subscriptions, the bigger the better, but no matter how small, with promptness to the Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, James J. Blackwood, Esq., J.P., Ulster Bank, Belfast.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

An Intestinal Ferment: Mucinase.—Organization of Crèches and Natural Feeding in Industrial Centres.—The Lavoisier of the Hôtel Dieu and St. Louis Hospitals.—Creation of a New Chair of Clinical Therapeutics in the Paris Faculty of Medicine.

At a recent meeting of the Société de Biologie Dr. Roger made a communication on a ferment extracted from the mucous membrane of the small intestine, to which he proposes to give the name of mucinase. This ferment has the power of coagulating mucin and rendering it insoluble in lime water. It is very easily obtained by treating with glycerine the mucous membrane of the small intestine and precipitating this glycerine extract with alcohol. Dr. Roger has experimented with mucinase, by means of which, when in contact with mucin of intestinal or biliary origin, he has obtained a coagulation of the mucin, which is precipitated in the form of small flakes. When mucinase is in the presence of pure bile the mucin is not coagulated, the liquid remaining clear. Bile possesses the curious property of preventing the action of mucinase, owing this property to substances which are soluble in alcohol and which resist boiling. It is now easy to understand why mucus remains in the liquid state in the small intestine, why it is coagulated in the large intestine, and why in certain cases of enteritis it is expelled in the form of concrete masses and in wide ribbon-like filaments.

During 1904 Professor Budin called the attention of the